

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUJUMB 00757 010819Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /078 W

-----020263 010928Z /23

R 010730Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6335

INFO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

USUN NEW YORK 0662

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0757

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, WA, BY

SUBJECT: DEMARCH TO BURUNDI ON NAMIBIA

REF: STATE 142381

1. FRENCH, WEST GERMAN, AND AMERICAN AMBASSADORS HAD HALF HOUR JUNE 30 WITH PRIME MINISTER NZAMBIMANA TO MAKE DEMARCHE ON NAMIBIA ENVISAGED BY REFTEL. WE ADDED THAT WESTERN FIVE BELIEVED THEY HAD MADE REAL PROGRESS IN CHANGING SOUTH AFRICAN POSITION AND THAT BASIC CONDITIONS FOR A FREE AND UNCOERCED EXPRESSION OF THE POPULAR WILL IN NAMIBIA NOW EXISTED. WE HOPED THE BURUNDI DELEGATION AT THE OAU SUMMIT WOULD SUPPORT OUR POSITION AND THUS GIVE THE CHANCES FOR A PEACEFUL TRANSITION FURTHER ENCOURAGEMENT.

2. THE PRIMIN SAID THAT THE FIVE HAD MADE SOME PROGRESS, BUT HE DID NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE THAT SOUTH AFRICA COULD BE TRUSTED. IN GENERAL, NATIONS WON THEIR INDEPENDENCE BY FORCE OF ARMS, AS MOZAMBIQUE, ANGOLA, ETC. HAD PROVED, AND THAT WOULD PROBABLY TURN OUT TO BE THE CASE IN NAMIBIA AS WELL. BURUNDI WAS, OF COURSE, NOT AGAINST GENUINELY FREE ELECTIONS, BUT IT WOULD ADHERE STRICTLY TO THE POSITION THAT SWAPO WAS THE ONLY LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NAMIBIAN PEOPLE. HE WOULD NOT RPT NOT BUDGE  
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PAGE 02 BUJUMB 00757 010819Z

FROM THIS POSITION, EVEN AFTER WE NOTED THAT THOUGH ALL PARTIEIS AND GROUPS WOULD BE FREE TO CAMPAIGN, SWAPO WOULD BE JUST AS UNHINDERED AND WOULD HAVE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO REINFORCE ITS POSITION AT THE BALLOT BOX. THE PRIMIN ALSO MENTIONED THE UNSETTLED STATUS OF WALVIS BAY AS VERY UNSATISFACTORY.

3. COMMENT. THE RELATIVE LACK OF CONCERN OF NZAMBIMANA ABOUT

ARMED CONFLICT IN NAMIBIA STANDS IN MARKED CONTRAST TO PRESIDENT BAGAZA'S VIEW, REITERATED TO ME ON JUNE 23, THAT WAR SHOULD BE ONLY A LAST RESORT BECAUSE THE DESTRUCTION CAUSED BY IT WILL PRESENT A SEVERE SETBACK TO THE HOPES OF THE VERY PEOPLE WHO ARE FIGHTING FOR INDEPENDENCE. THIS IS JUST ANOTHER ILLUSTRATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S RELATIVE RADICALISM AND IDEOLOGICAL BENT. INDEED, THE LATTER REFERRED TO BURUNDI'S POSITION ON NAMIBIA AT THE MAPUTO CONFERENCE, AND THIS CLEARLY IMPLIES THAT HIS IDEAS STEM FROM HIS FREQUENT POLITICAL MENTOR, ANTI-WESTERN U.N. AMBAS-SADOR SIMBANANIYE WHO REPRESENTED BURUNDI AT MAPUTO AND WHO THEN VISITED HERE ENROUTE BACK TO NEW YORK. REGARDING LIBREVILLE, IT IS UNDOUBTEDLY NZAMBIMANA WHO UNFORTUNATELY WILL HAVE THE LAST WORD WITH THE DELEGATION LEAVING HERE TODAY TO JOIN FONMIN MUGANGA AT THE SUMMIT. BURUNDI WILL NOT TAKE INITIATIVES ON NAMIBIA AT LIBREVILLE, BUT IN ANY CRUNCH, IT WILL PROBABLY JOIN THE RADICALS.

MARK

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
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